

Library of Congress

The Colored American

A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

VOL. 7. NO. 47.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

A TUSKEGEE ALUMNUS

Prof. Robert W. Taylor's Effective Platform Work in the Interest of Practical Education—Mr. Washington's Graceful Compliment.

Young black men of the North and Southland, I believe that there is in you somewhat of the spirit that pervades and gives life to true manhood. Without it your aspirations are empty dreams, your labor will be fruitless waste. Powerful government, richly endowed universities, large facilities for acquiring deep learning are priceless blessings, but these alone do not make strong men—men of brawn and brain. Such blessings are the products of the working genius of strong men. No stream rises higher than its source, no structure is stronger than its component parts; the stability, the continued upward progression of the Negro race in America depends on the individual character. Now individual character is not born, as poets are said to be, nor manufactured like a machine. No self made man ever lived; yet was there ever a man good or bad who was not self made?

The law of character growth is this: On the one hand stands heredity—type conformity, on the other hand environment and between and over them stand an architect, a master workman whose work is for good or evil, and the name of that workman is—"I am."

The subject of our sketch, Professor Robert W. Taylor, is one of the solid, sturdy men of the Southland, who, without the beating of tom toms and the blowing of trumpets, has succeeded in accomplishing as much for the uplift and development of his race along educational lines as any man of his age and opportunities. His work for the past few years has been in the direction of creating sentiment favorable to his Alma Mater—Tuskegee, and in urging its claims to recognition by those who, like founder of that school, have unlimited faith in industrial education as the remedy for the improvement of the condition of the Negro industrially and commercially.

Professor Taylor has done some very intelligent and effective work on the platform in behalf of this school, in many states of the North and East, and by his earnest manner of presenting its claims to the consideration of those interested in Negro education in the South has, made many friends for the school and for himself.

Some idea of his worth public



PROF. RICHARD T. GREENER.

U. S. Consul to Vladivostock Eastern Siberia, Russia—Whose Splendid Record Has Evoked Commendation from the Highest Authority.

speaker may be gathered from the following remarks of Booker T. Washington at Convention Hall, Saratoga, New York, August 20, 1899, where Prof. Taylor made the opening address: "When Mr. Taylor came to Tuskegee some years ago, barefooted and in short pants, I did not think that he would some day make a better speech than I shall ever be able to make; but such you have all heard tonight. If Tuskegee has done nothing more than produce a Robert W. Taylor I feel that my 18 years of labor have not been in vain."

This compliment is as graceful as it is deserved. Professor Taylor is an eloquent, forceful and thoughtful platform speaker, who always manages to say something striking, and to say it in elegant and chaste English.

He has spoken a number of times before some of the most cultured audiences

(Continued on 12th page.)

EMPIRE STATE OF THE SOUTH

A Negro Bank and Cotton Factory in Prospect—Political News Notes.

Atlanta, Ga., Special—Hon. J. W. Lyons, Register of the Treasury paid a flying visit to Atlanta last Saturday night, but left Sunday morning for his old home, Augusta. Capt. C. O. Wimbish, surveyor of customs for Atlanta, and E. F. Blodgett, assistant postmaster at Atlanta, has been elected delegates to the national republican convention at Philadelphia for the 5th district. A. Graves, Esq. one of Atlanta's most progressive real estate dealers has been made presidential elector for the 5th district of Georgia. Mr. Graves is an Afro-American of energy, push and pluck and usually get there. He does as much business as any two real estate agents in this great city. Mr. Shepherd the photographer of Commissioner Calloway returned to the city one day last week. Prof. W. E. B. DuBois of Atlanta University has quite a number of young men and women employed in the city getting certain information that will be used at the Paris Exposition in the Negro department. The leading colored men here are subscribing to a stock of \$50,000 with a view of going into general banking business. I am told that over two-thirds of the stock has been subscribed and sold. It may be a national bank.

Hon. W. A. Venable, ex-lieutenant governor of Georgia, a leading white business man here, who owns a large rock quarry and several hundred acres of land adjoining, and Hon. H. A. Rucker are figuring on a plan of starting a cotton factory within fifteen miles of Atlanta to be operated by Afro-American hands. Mr. Rucker has given much study along this line for a number of years. He is now about to realize his goal. Register Lyons district has elected Prof. P. H. Craig of Augusta, and Dr. A. E. Williams of Gordon, Ga. delegates to the national convention at Philadelphia. Messrs. Craig and Williams are both very strong and worthy Afro-Americans and will reflect much credit upon the old Tenth district that Register Lyons represented so long and faithfully. Mr. H. E. Baker of Washington, D. C. an employee of the Patent Office visited Atlanta last Monday morning and registered at the Hotel Vendom. He came to settle up the affairs of the late Dr. W. H. Taylor.

(Continued on 9th page.)

Studying Dr Curtis' Methods.

Among the distinguished visitors in town during the past week was Dr. L. L. Burwell of Selma, Ala., one of the most prominent practitioners and druggists in the South. Dr. Burwell is one of the brightest young men of the race to whose many honors already achieved, it is impossible to do justice in the space of a local. Dr. Burrell's example is a lesson to the blasé youth as to what may be accomplished by pluck and grit. He has wasted no time in looking for a way to succeed—he is making one. He has been looking into the conduct of Freedman's hospital to the end of establishing a similar institution in Alabama.

Editor Fortune in Town.

Editor T. Thomas Fortune of "The New York Age" is spending a few days in the city for the rest and recreation. Mr. Fortune is such a busy man that it is difficult for him to rest anywhere.